(b) if so, the quantum of loss incurred by these companies as a result thereof during the last one year; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to check this wasteful expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir. The broad guidelines laid down by Government about setting up of refuelling facilities at airports are being adhered to by the oil companies concerned (IOC, HPCL and BPCL).

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Malpractices by LPG Dealers

3608. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Hindustan Times of the 15-8-1988 under the caption 'Gas services denied' wherein it has been stated that LPG dealers of Indian Oil are harassing the consumers by insisting on purchasing gas stoves from private agencies suggested by them; and

(b) if so, what steps Govt. are taking to check such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Complaints received against LPG distributors about their pressurising new allottees of LPG connections to purchase gas stoves are investigated and customer's grievances addressed. All distributors are required to prominently display a notice in their showrooms that it is not obligatory for a consumer purchase LPG stove/burners from the distributor releasing the connection. Action against erring distributors is taken in line with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines.

Pending Applications for Telephones Connections in Orissa

3609. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications pending for the grant of telephone connections under different categories in the State of Orissa as on 31st March, 1988;

(b) the number of telephone connections likely to be provided during this year; and

(c) by when all the pending applications are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) As on 31.3.88, there are 6412 applicants waiting for telephone connections in Orissa, out of which 599 are under OYT, 4853 under non-OYT & 960 under special category.

(b) About 3500 new telephone connections are likely to be provided during the year 1988-89.

(c) The objective of the Department is to meet by the end of the Seventh Plan the average registered demand upto 1.4.87 in the case of Main Automatic Exchange-I (MAX-I) upto 1.4.88 in the case of MAX-II and upto 1.4.90 in the case of MAX-III and manual exchanges. The remaining waiting list will be cleared gradually during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Scope of Indo-West German and Indo-Japanese industrial collaborations

3610. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEV:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scope of Indo-West German and Indo-Japanese industrial collaborations and joint ventures in the near future;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and